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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 8, 2006. Claims 1-11 were pending. By this Amendment, new dependent claims 12 and 13 have been added, claim 11 has been amended to correct informalities therein, and claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are now pending, with claims 1 and 5 being in independent form.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,465,163 to Yoshihara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,181 to Goldberg et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to facsimile operations when a large-sized document (that is, having a size larger than A3-size) is involved. Some facsimile communications protocol permits A3-sized width as the maximum width of the transmitted document.

The present application proposes a facsimile device that includes scanner means to scan a subject copy having a size larger than A3-size, and the large-sized scanned document is automatically divided into two or more read areas or reduced to fit an A3-size page, by divisively reading lines of the image data in a sub-scanning direction by dividing the image data into divisional lines of data having a predetermined width. Each of independent claims 1 and 5 addresses these features, as well as additional features.

Yoshihara, as understood by Applicant, proposes a copier having a conventional scanner. When the copier of Yoshihara operates in large-sized original mode, copying of the original must be split into a plurality of scans. As discussed in Yoshihara, column 5, lines 35-54, the user

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specifies through operation of an operation unit the number of read operations, and then for each read operation the user orients the original on the mount glass and presses the read key to trigger the read operation, and the read image portion is stored in memory. When the read operations are completed, the operator presses the read-end key, and the copier proceeds to process the image portions stored in memory to synthesize a complete document image from the stored image portions.

Therefore, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, Yoshihara does not disclose or suggest reading means which detects whether the width of the subject copy is larger than an A3-size width, and if the width of the subject copy is larger than an A3-size width, automatically dividing the subject copy into at least two portions.

The copier of Yoshihara does not have scanner means which can scan a subject copy having a size larger than A3-size, and the large-sized scanned document is automatically divided into two or more read areas or reduced to fit an A3-size page, as provided by the claimed invention of the present application.

Goldberg, as understood by Applicant, proposes an image processing system having an image rotation function, wherein a small buffer memory with a storage capacity less than that required to store an entire image (of 8.5" by 11" sheet of paper) can be utilized. Goldberg proposes that the image is divided into image sections and each image section is rotated.

Goldberg does not address the issue of a large-sized document (that is, larger than A3-size).

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a facsimile device comprising inputting means for inputting image data of a subject copy having a width in a main scanning direction larger than an A3-size width, and including scanner means for scanning the

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subject copy having a size larger than the A3-size, as provided by amended claim 1 of the present application.

Independent claim 5 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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